

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BERN 00801 180000Z
ACTION ACDA-12

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SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
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S E C R E T BERN 801

DEPT PASS NSC FOR CDR SICK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, XO
SUBJECT: US-USSR INDIAN OCEAN ARMS CONTROL TALKS: RESTRICTED
SESSION, FEB. 16

1. A RESTRICTED DELEGATION MEETING WAS HELD IN
US EMBASSY ON 16 FEBRUARY. PRESENT ON US SIDE WERE
AMBASSADOR WARNKE, NEWHOUS, BAYNE, GORMAN AND INTERPRETER.
USSR WAS REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH,
AMELKO, PERFILEV AND INTERPRETER.

2. MEETING WAS REQUESTED BY SOVIETS TO DISCUSS
COVERAGE OF STRATEGIC SYSTEMS IN AGREEMENT, DEFINITION
OF AREA, ALLIED FACTOR AND ADJACENT AREA FACTOR. ALTHOUGH
MAJOR PORTION OF MEETING UNEVENTFUL, WITH BOTH SIDES
HOLDING TO ORIGINAL POSITION, DURING DISCUSSION OF
STRATEGIC SYSTEMS, MENDELEVICH SAID IT MAY BE POSSIBLE
TO HANDLE SUCH SYSTEMS OTHER THAN IN THE OPERATIONAL
PARAGRAPHS OR SUPPLEMENTS. HE SUGGESTED THAT A
REFERENCE BE MADE IN THE "PREAMBLE, NOT AS A PROHIBI-
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PAGE 02 BERN 00801 180000Z

TION, NOT AS A CHANGE, BUT AS A STATEMENT OF FACT."
IF THE U.S. AGREED TO USING THE PREAMBLE TO COVER
STRATEGIC SYSTEMS, HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE SOVIETS
WOULD BE WILLING TO DROP THE SECOND PART OF PARA. 2,
ARTICLE I OF THE SOVIET DECEMBER DRAFT. PROPOSED
SOVIET TEXT FOR PREAMBLE FOLLOWS: QUOTE NOTING, AS
A FAVORABLE FACTOR FOR ATTAINING THESE OBJECTIVES,

THAT UNTIL NOW BOTH PARTIES HAVE NOT DEPLOYED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN THEIR STRATEGIC FORCES, IN PARTICULAR BALLISTIC-MISSILE SUBMARINES AND LAND-BASED AND SEA-BASED STRATEGIC AIRCRAFT, NOR MAINTENANCE FACILITIES ASHORE OR AFLOAT FOR THESE FORCES OR DEVICES ON THE SEA-BED CONNECTED WITH THE OPERATION OF THESE FACILITIES; UNQUOTE.

3. ADDITIONALLY, REFERENCING THE FACT THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT CHALLENGE THE SOVIET STATEMENT OF JUNE 1977, QUOTE THAT THE U.S. HAS NOT DEPLOYED SSBNS ON A WIDE SCALE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, UNQUOTE, MENDELEVICH NOTED THAT THE USSR HAD CHECKED ITS RECORDS OF THAT DATE. HE SAID THE SOVIET RECORD SHOWED THE USSR NOTING THAT THE U.S. DID NOT HAVE QUOTE A COMPLETED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE LARGE-SCALE DEPLOYMENT OF SUBMARINES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. UNQUOTE. MENDELEVICH STRESSED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE U.S. HAD NO SUBMARINES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE SOVIET SIDE ONLY MENTIONED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LARGE-SCALE DEPLOYMENT OF SUBMARINES. WARNKE NOTED THAT THE U.S. POSITION WAS BASED ON ITS UNDERSTANDING AND, REGARDLESS OF MENDELEVICH'S CORRECTION OF THE RECORD, THE U.S. POSITION IS THAT IT STILL DOES NOT CHALLENGE ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE 25 JUNE STATEMENT.

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PAGE 03 BERN 00801 180000Z

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